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MINNESOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

VOLUME 4. No. 3.

ST. PAUL, SEPTEMBER, 1913.

QUARTERLY

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MARTHA WILSON, *Library Visitor.*

Minnesota Library Association

Twenty-first Annual Meeting

UNIVERSITY of MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS

October 21-23, 1913



LIBRARY BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The 21st annual meeting of the Minnesota Library Association will be held at the State University, October 21st-23rd, 1913, immediately preceding the sessions of the M. E. A. so that any desiring to do so, may attend both meetings.

The theme of the meeting will be The library and educational extension, and the meeting at the University will give librarians an opportunity to meet and listen to some of the people who are engaged in the newer phases of educational extension in the state. Among the speakers who have already been secured are Prof. Richard R. Price, the new director of educational extension, Dr. E. Dana Durand, director of the University Bureau of Statistics, and well known as director of the U. S. Bureau of the Census. Prof. Hardin Craig will contribute to the literary side of the program, and Miss Maud van Buren, now chairman of the Dept. of Junior Civic Leagues of the American Civic Association, will speak on Children as civic workers.

All these speakers will bring a broader conception of the present day movements for social and educational betterment to which the library should be closely related, and round table sessions will be devoted to practical problems, with discussions of how the small library may help in the work suggested, and topics of interest to library trustees.

The meeting will open with a dinner Tuesday evening, at which the out-of-town librarians will be guests, and Dr. Hardin Craig will give the chief address. At the Wednesday morning session, various phases of educational extension will be presented by Prof. Price and others, and the afternoon will be devoted to reference work especially with high schools and to other school relationships. Prof. E. Dana Durand will speak Wednesday evening, and the round table discussions and business session will occupy the final session Thursday morning. Arrangements will be made for personally conducted tours to typical Minneapolis branches Thursday afternoon.

Notable speakers on the program of the M. E. A. will be Gov. Ferris of Michigan, former Gov. Hadley of Missouri, Dean Charles Reynold Brown of Yale University, Prof. Frank M. McMurry of Columbia University, Dr. L. D. Harvey, of Stout Institute, Menomonie, Wis., Dean Geo. F. James of

the University of Minnesota, Louis F. Post, editor of "The Public," and Dr. Harold W. Foght, of the U. S. Bureau of Education.

A concert by the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra will be given Thursday evening, free to members of the M. E. A.

The final program with full information as to hotels and other arrangements, will be mailed early in October.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The 1913 conference of the A. L. A. was held at the Hotel Kaaterskill, June 23-28, with an attendance of over 900, one-third of whom were claimed by New York state, and nearly another third by New England.

The general theme of the conference "Specialization in library work" was well carried out in the general program which covered a wide range of subjects, as well as in the large number of sectional meetings which discussed methods of work of interest to library workers in every department.

President Legler's opening address at the first session on The world of print and the world's work, was a scholarly presentation of the growth of democracy through the agency of the printed book, and the development of a broader field for the library of the people, which responds to the demand for information, education, recreation.

A new and interesting feature was a symposium, in which men and women prominent in letters or affairs, answered the question "What do you consider the most valuable accomplishment of the public library movement in the past decade?" Characteristic replies were read from such men as Arnold Bennett, George W. Cable, Robert Herrick, Winston Churchill, S. Weir Mitchell, Thomas Nelson Page, Booth Tarkington, Prof. Jameson of the Carnegie Institution, Washington, and President David Starr Jordan. Probably the most striking of these was the answer of Andrew Carnegie, "The spread of the truth that the public library, free to all the people, gives nothing for nothing, that the reader must himself climb the ladder, and in climbing gain knowledge how to live this life well."

At the session devoted to work with foreigners and colored races, Mary Antin, author of "The promised land," made a stirring appeal for The immigrant in the library; cleverly exposing the usual Ameri-

can attitude toward the immigrant, when she said, "I don't know at what moment immigrants began to be immigrants and ceased to be Pilgrims. Your forefathers didn't come over in the steerage because the Mayflower wasn't made that way." She urged librarians to make known what immigrants are doing in our libraries, since they look to us as upholders of justice and true liberty. "Do not let them lose this ideal."

Other sessions were devoted to Library influence in the home, in the shop, on the farm, and among defectives and dependents, and the Library's service to business and legislation.

At the general session devoted to children's work, a comprehensive review of the changing conditions of child life, was given by Miss Faith Smith, of the Chicago Public Library, and Miss Gertrude Andrus, of the Seattle Public Library told how the library is meeting these conditions. An able paper on Normal Schools and their relation to librarianship, was given by Willis H. Kerr, of the Emporia (Kan.) Normal School, and Miss Mary Hall of the Brooklyn Girls' High School, spoke on The enlarging scope of library work in high schools.

One meeting of the Council was an open session, in which the Quality of fiction was the subject for discussion, led by Horace G. Wadlin, librarian of Boston Public Library, who explained the method of selection of that library, and Dr. Bostwick of St. Louis, whose clear statement of the principles which should apply in book selection, is printed below.

The closing session concerned the world of books. A paper on The friendly book by Genevieve Walton, of the Michigan State Normal School, dealt chiefly with memoirs and biography. Its true literary flavor and delightful charm revealed the richly stored mind of the writer.

Edmund L. Pearson, the well known "Librarian" of the Boston Transcript, told in a humorous vein, "How to discourage reading," through purchase of complete works, sets of the world's classics, and profusely annotated editions, all of which prove a stumbling block to the average reader.

Five minute book reviews of several recent books, closed the program.

The officers for the coming year are:

President, Edwin H. Anderson, New York Public Library.

First Vice President, Hiller C. Wellman, City Library, Springfield, Mass.

Second Vice President, Gratia A. Countryman, Minneapolis Public Library.

Executive Board: Herbert Putnam, Library of Congress; Harrison W. Craver, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; W. N. C. Carlton, Newberry Library, Chicago.

Those in attendance from Minnesota were, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Wilson, Minneapolis; Miss Howe, Miss Cloud and Miss Leonard of the Minneapolis Public Library; Mr. Gerould and Miss Sears of the University Library; Mr. Lien, State Librarian; Miss Wilson, Dept. of Education; Miss Earhart, Duluth; Miss Newhard, Virginia, and Miss Baldwin of the Library Commission.

THE QUALITY OF FICTION.*

By Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, St. Louis Public Library.

The two things that it is necessary to take into account in selecting literature are its form and its content. The former largely determines the literary value of a composition; the latter its practical usefulness.

Poetry and prose are the two great basic forms into which all literature is divided.

Narrative may be cased in either form and when that narrative is untrue we call it fiction. In the usage of most of us, the word is restricted to prose. Fiction, therefore, is not so much a matter of form as of content, or rather, of the quality of content. Of two books telling of the lives of the same kind of persons in the same way, the mere fact that one is true and the other not, would class one as biography and the other as fiction.

Of what importance is the fact that of two bits of narrative, one is true and the other is untrue? That depends on the purpose for which the narrative is to be used. If we desire an accurate and orderly statement of facts, the true narrative is the only one of value. On the other hand, the facts, not of the narrative but incidental to it may be true in the fiction and false in the biography. From the standpoint of the seeker of recreation, the fiction is generally, although not always, more interesting. The writer has the advantage of being able to create the elements of his tale and control their grouping, as well as regulate their form; and in addition, he knows that he

*Read at the Kaaterskill conference of the A. L. A.

must be interesting to secure readers. Unfortunately, historians, biographers and travellers have generally too high an opinion of their functions as purveyors of truth to stoop to make it interesting.

As regards literary value, of course the mere truth or falsity of the narrative can have little to do with this; yet I believe, as a matter of fact, the fictitious narrative has literary value oftener than true narrative; for the reason offered above, that writers of truth consider it beneath their dignity to garnish it, like those fatuous dieticians who believe that so long as we take so much proteid and so much carbohydrate we need not worry over forms and flavors.

Now I am supposed to be telling you about fiction and about the propriety or impropriety of including much of it in libraries, but I think you see that I am sidling toward the statement that I think we need not consider fiction at all, as fiction, in this connection. The reasons for rejecting fiction, when they exist, have nothing whatever to do with its being fiction, and would apply to non-fiction as well. If a biography purporting to relate the events in the life of Oliver Cromwell is full of errors, that is a reason why it should not stand on your library shelves. If a novel, purporting to give a correct idea of life in Chicago, succeeds only in leaving the impression that the city is peopled with silly and immoral persons, that is equally a reason for rejection. If a history of the Italian Renaissance is filled with unsavory details, these might exclude it, just as they might exclude a novel whose scene was laid in the same period. The story of a criminal's life, if so written as to make wrong appear right, might be rejected for this reason whether the original really existed or not. A poor, trashy book of travel should no more be placed on the shelves than a novel of the same grade, and if our book funds are limited we can no more buy all the biography or travel or books on chemistry or philosophy than we can buy all the novels that fall from the press. I do not deny, of course, that any or all the reasons for rejection that have been adduced might be overbalanced by others in favor of purchase, and they might be so overbalanced in the case of fiction as well as in that of non-fiction.

In other words, I should not buy a book because it is fiction, or turn it down for the same reason, any more than I would buy

or fail to buy a book because it is biography or travel. I say I should not do this any more in one case than in another. I might want to do it occasionally in both. I believe that the more we forget the mere issue of fiction versus non-fiction, and try instead to draw the line between useful books and harmful ones, wise books and silly ones, books that help and books that hinder, books that exalt and those that depress, books that excite high emotions and books that stir up low ones—the sooner we shall be good librarians.

SUMMER LIBRARY SCHOOL, 1913.

The Library Summer School for 1913, was held June 16th to July 25th, in the library building at the State University. The total registration was 20, of whom 6 were librarians of small public libraries, 9 library assistants, and 5 school librarians.

The usual elementary course was given as in previous years, under the direction of the Secretary of the Commission who gave the lectures on book-selection and administration. Miss Carey, the Commission organizer, gave the instruction in classification, cataloging, order, accession and shelf-list, with practice work continuing throughout the course. Lectures on reference work with practical problems were given by Miss Stearns. The course in children's work included 8 lectures by Miss Martha Wilson, Supervisor of School Libraries, which comprised chiefly a study of a typical collection of children's books, and suggestions as to ways of encouraging the best reading. At the close of the course, a lecture by Miss Mary E. Hall, librarian of the Brooklyn Girls' High School, set forth effectively the opportunities for the librarian in High School work. First, the librarian must know what the school is trying to do. The educational aims of the present day are to prepare for complete living, for the best kind of citizenship, for social service, and the right use of leisure. Second, the librarian must know the course of study, and the teachers individually, and then work through the departments, having something of value for each. She told how the work in one history department had been entirely made over by the use of magazines, clippings and pictures, and of a bulletin board on which important news from the daily papers was posted. In literature the importance of set-

ting high standards in pictures and humor was emphasized, and to this end the most attractive editions of the classics, such as the Cranford series, should be provided. Among ways of influencing the students' general reading, she dwelt upon the value of reading clubs, but especially the necessity of knowing the books. The influence of biography in the High School age was emphasized, the lives of Florence Nightingale, Alice Freeman Palmer, Edison, Gilchrist's Mary Lyon, Carla Wenckebach by Muller, and Shaler's Masters of fate, having proved specially stimulating.

The libraries are also doing much in vocational guidance. For this purpose, a file of college catalogs should be kept with an index to show where special courses may be obtained.

Prof. Emeritus Maria L. Sanford addressed the class during the first week of the course, naming individuality and enthusiasm as essential for success in library work; individuality, which is the courage to stand alone, to develop one's highest powers, and so vitalize the every-day routine; enthusiasm for the best in literature, recognizing the excellence in the new, through sharpening the mind by contact with standards.

Another stimulating address was given by Miss Margaret J. Evans, of Northfield, Chairman of the Library Commission, who spoke on The librarian's reading. She congratulated librarians on the door of opportunity which is open to them through their employment. Through personal reading, the librarian should cultivate her mental power by reading something hard, which requires persistent, continuous effort; her social power, by studying the great social movements of the day; her aesthetic sense, through study of beauty, chiefly through poetry, and her spiritual power, by knowledge of the books that inspire.

A talk on Library advertising by Miss Arabel Martin, librarian of the North Branch, Minneapolis, was full of practical suggestions, showing forcibly the necessity of "a campaign of publicity to make known to the wayfaring man, woman and child, the advantages and privileges that are obtainable through your library and mine. The same methods used by the manufacturer, the merchant and the politician may be employed successfully by the library. The

causes of the failure of the people to use the library are:

1. In nearly every town there are some people, possibly newcomers or foreigners, who do not even know there is a public library in your town.

2. There are certain classes beyond the reach of the library such as those who are totally illiterate.

3. Many people in the town know there is such an institution but they don't know that it has anything that will be of interest or value to them.

4. Some people are timid about going to the library, because it takes too much time to dress up and get ready; but there is no hesitation about going to the grocery, the butcher shop, confectionery stand, billiard or saloon without fixing up.

5. A few people don't like to read, hence are not attracted by the library.

6. Some people stay away because they don't like the administration.

What is to be done to increase the efficiency of the library?

First, we must have suitable service and second, we must advertise that service so that the people may know about it.

By the service, I mean suitable books and magazines, the kind that the various classes in the particular city, will read. The library should be made democratic in both ideal and practice. It is the extension activities which properly belong in the public library's sphere that need to be exploited."

As to methods of advertising, the most effective is the personal work of the librarian. Miss Martin told of the success of a social survey which is being carried on by branch workers in the Minneapolis system. Co-operation with teachers is the next most effective method, and furthermore, with Sunday School workers, pastors, employers of labor, the trade union officials and literary societies. No organization in the city should be overlooked. The importance of the newspaper as an advertising medium was emphasized, with many suggestions as to preparation of live copy, and illustrations of good notes and lists which have proved effective. A good lesson may be learned from the merchant and window dresser in making a display of books as attractive as possible.

"Publicity may have another field of usefulness. If the library needs more money

for general maintenance, possibly more room, a different building, a better class of help, judicious publicity is one of the very best aids."

The talk was illustrated by an exhibit of good advertising material and aroused great interest.

The visits to libraries are always an interesting feature of the course. One afternoon was given to the Minneapolis Public Library when Miss Countryman personally conducted the class through all departments, explaining the working of a large city library system. On another afternoon, a number of typical branches in different parts of the city were visited under the guidance of Mr. Lavell. On St. Paul day, the Capital with the special libraries belonging to the state, the Library Commission office, and the St. Paul Public Library were all inspected. The trip to Stillwater included a visit to the new state prison, as well as the library, where a delicious luncheon was served by the library board.

A visit to the Waldorf bindery followed a talk on processes of binding and binding materials by Mr. Chidester, the manager of the bindery. The plant of the H. W. Wilson Co., was a revelation of the vast amount of labor necessary to the preparation of their indispensable library aids.

The Delta Gamma Lodge provided a "social center" for the instructors and 12 members of the class, who had the advantage of better acquaintance and many pleasant excursions outside of hours.

The following students were registered:
Mrs. Amanda E. Anderson, Asst. Libn., P. L. Red Wing.

Henryetta Armstrong, Libn., P. L. Albert Lea.

Ruth Borland, Asst., P. L. Duluth.

Carol Clarkson, Acting Libn., P. L. Owatonna.

Eva M. Davis, Libn., P. L. Sauk Center.

Margaret R. Greer, Libn., Central High School, Minneapolis.

Anna J. Hendricks, Asst. Libn., P. L. Rochester.

Mrs. Florence S. Hicks, Libn., P. L. Alexandria.

Mrs. Mary L. Hughes, Asst., Agric. Sch. Lib., St. Anthony Park.

Nettie Johnson, Asst. Libn., P. L. Chatfield.

Mary E. King, Libn., Agric. School, Morris.

Frances V. Knittel, Asst., P. L. Sioux City, Ia.

Etta Lenart, Asst Libn., Sumner Branch Lib., Minneapolis.

Cecile Le Sage, Asst., P. L. Duluth.

Charlotte Matson, Apprentice P. L. Minneapolis.

Grace L. Meyer, Acting Libn., P. L. Red Wing.

Gladys Schafer, Libn., Public School Lib. Renville.

Beatrice Shordiche, Libn., P. L. St. James.

Fannie A. Taylor, Libn., H. S. Lib. Sioux Falls, S. D.

Winifred A. Tunell, Apprentice P. L. Minneapolis.

AIDS FOR LIBRARIANS.

Recall of Judges. As the subject for the High School Debating League is the Recall of Judges, the libraries will have a large demand for material. The Commission has made up a number of package libraries on this subject. Through the courtesy of Mr. Rome G. Brown of Minneapolis a number of duplicates of excellent pamphlets have been received, which can be distributed to any libraries applying for them.

Books for a Hospital Library. This list of 1,000 titles is selected from the shelf-list of the library of McLean Hospital, Waverly, Mass., by Edith Kathleen Jones, with additions and annotations by Miriam E. Carey, Supervisor of Institution Libraries, Minnesota State Board of Control; Florence Waugh, Librarian for State Institutions, Nebraska and Julia A. Robinson, Secretary, Iowa Library Commission. The list was compiled to help sick, nervous and worried people under hospital care get breezy, bright, entertaining books, pretty much entirely for their amusement and comfort, but will be just the thing for helping librarians answer the demand for cheerful books for the sick and convalescent, which comes so frequently. The books are mostly fiction, travel, biography and the out-of-door kind. Most of them are found in the ordinary library, but this guide will help librarians to use them for this special purpose. The list is published by the A. L. A. Publishing Board at 25 cents per copy. The Commission will send a copy on request to any library in Minnesota.

A. L. A. COMMITTEE ON BINDING.

The A. L. A. Committee on Binding now has sample work from 33 binders in this country, two binders in England and one in Germany. On application librarians can have the opinion of the Committee regarding the work of any of these binders. If desired the volumes showing the work of those who have submitted samples can be sent for examination.

A. L. BAILEY, Chairman.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The H. W. Wilson Company has recently disposed of its retail book and stationery business, and is now prepared to devote itself exclusively to the publishing of bibliographical tools for the use of libraries and the book trade. Believing that a location in the East, near the center of the publishing business of the country, would be more advantageous than the present headquarters, the firm has decided to move to White Plains, just outside of New York City. It is hoped that the change in location and the entire concentration of effort on the publishing business will make possible a greater efficiency in the work of the company than ever before. After November 1st all mail should be addressed to

THE H. W. WILSON COMPANY,
White Plains, N. Y.

FOR SALE.

The Carleton College Library has a nearly complete file of the Pioneer Press from 1888 to date, unbound, which they would be glad to dispose of to any library at a reasonable price.

Address Eleanor J. Gladstone,
Carleton College Library,
Northfield, Minn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Miss Blanche C. Seger, librarian at Winnebago, Minn., wishes to express her thanks to the librarians who responded so promptly and generously to her recent request for lists of the best new fiction.

TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES.

An exhibit of traveling libraries was made in the Education building at the State Fair. Some member of the Commission staff was in charge throughout the week, and there

were many interested visitors both among those who were familiar with the libraries, and those who learned of them for the first time.

On the program given at the Women's headquarters, Miss Countryman spoke on Libraries on Tuesday, and Miss Baldwin spoke on Library extension in Minnesota on Friday. At the round table held at Institute Hall, in charge of Mrs. Margaret Baker of the Agricultural College, a half-hour was given to traveling library work, with brief talks by Miss Stearns on the general traveling library, Miss Pringle on the reference work of the traveling library, and Miss Gertrude Norrish of Hastings on the organization of country clubs.

The traveling libraries have been thoroughly renovated during the summer months, and are ready for the "fall trade."

More than 100 club libraries have been sent out, but good material is still available on the following subjects:

Architecture,
Art—Italian, Early and Renaissance,
—Spanish,
Arts and Crafts,
Bible—New Testament,
Canada,
England—Travel,
Shakespeare,
French Literature,
Germany—History and Travel,
Italian Cities—Northern,
—Central,
Italian Literature,
Rome,
Russia,
Scotland and Ireland—Travel,
Sculpture—Greek and Roman,
U. S. History—Civil War to Present,
U. S. Island Possessions,
West Indies.

SCHOOL LIBRARY NOTES.

A list of 200 books for a rural school library was compiled for the League of Library Commissions, as a part of their exhibit at the National Educational Association meeting at Salt Lake City. The list is arranged by grades and includes publisher and price.

The books on the list were exhibited at the State Teachers' Training School at the University farm, and were examined and read by many teachers.

A course in elementary library methods

for teachers was offered at the State Teachers' Training School at the University farm for the first time. Nineteen lectures were given with practice work. The course was chiefly composed of examination and evaluation of children's books with the reference use.

A new edition of the Minnesota school library list—Books for elementary and rural schools, is now in print. Few changes have been made in the general plan of the list. Some titles which were not of especial value have been dropped and about one hundred new titles added to carry on the purpose of the list, to provide a good working collection of children's books suited for either a school or a small public library. In many of the divisions, a note has been included as a comment on books of that particular class, and designed to give a basis for criticism. The division of Books for teachers and school officers has been entirely revised to form a reference library for teachers' training departments.

The list of 200 books for rural schools is reprinted in the introduction, as it is recommended that these books be bought first. The introduction has been revised and more space given to the care and arrangement of libraries, and some new features added. Among these, the notes for study on the rural school library for teachers' training departments, and a list for a Pupil's Reading Circle in the grades.

In this edition, only list prices could be given, as the contract system of purchase was abolished by the last legislature.

The list for high schools is now in preparation.

Miss Mary E. Hall, librarian of the Girls' High School, Brooklyn and president of the Library Section of the N. E. A., 1913, visited St. Paul in July and made stimulating and interesting talks to the students in the Commission summer school, on the work of the high school library and to the teachers at the State Teachers' Training School, on Books and reading.

An exhibit of school library books and aids will be shown in the Auditorium, Minneapolis, at the time of the M. E. A. meeting, Oct. 22-25, and the second conference of Normal School librarians will also be held at that time

M. W.

PERSONAL.

Miss Miriam E. Carey, since 1909 organizer for the Library Commission, has been appointed Supervisor of Institution Libraries under the State Board of Control. Since Miss Carey's connection with the Commission, the institution libraries have been included in its field of activities, with the result that the Board of Control now deems the work of so much importance that the new position has been created.

While the Commission deeply regrets the loss of Miss Carey's services to the public libraries, it is a matter of congratulation that this special work to which Miss Carey has rendered such devoted effort, has been recognized and placed on a more permanent basis.

Miss Ruth Haven of Chatfield, Minn., a graduate of Western Reserve Library School, for the past year assistant in the North Side Branch, Minneapolis, will join the Commission staff October 1st, as organizer and general assistant.

Miss Maud van Buren, formerly librarian at Mankato, and for two years on the staff of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, has been appointed chairman of the Department of Junior Civic Leagues of the American Civic Association, and begins work this fall as a civic organizer. She announces stereopticon lectures on Children as civic workers, A boy I knew and his town, Our wild life and what is happening to it, and an informal talk on The local food supply.

Miss van Buren's success in organizing civic work in Mankato is well known, and her library friends will wish her further success in this new field. Her headquarters for the coming year will be at her home, 1125 S. Cedar Street, Owatonna, where she may be addressed for terms and further information.

Miss Harriet Howe, head cataloger in the Minneapolis Public Library, has been appointed instructor in cataloging in the Library School at Western Reserve University, Cleveland. Miss Ruth Rosholt, assistant cataloger in Minneapolis, succeeds her as head of the department.

Miss Margaret Palmer, formerly librarian at Hibbing, has been elected librarian at Chisholm, and will begin work October 1st.

Miss Elizabeth Connor, librarian at Redwood Falls, has been appointed librarian of the High School library at Two Harbors, to

succeed Miss Cora Tanner, who resigned on account of the ill health of her mother. She has been succeeded at Redwood Falls by Miss M. Frances Moore, formerly assistant in the library at Beloit, Wis.

Miss Margaret Hickman graduated from Pratt Institute Library School in June, and took up her work as librarian at Red Wing, July 1st.

Miss Ethel Wright, a graduate of the Carnegie Library School of Pittsburg, and assistant in the children's department at Cleveland, has been appointed children's librarian at Virginia, and began work September 15th.

Miss Grace Foland has resigned her position as cataloger in the Historical Society Library, and is at present taking charge of the library at her home in Benson.

Miss Edna Brack, for several years assistant in the cataloging department of the St. Paul Public Library has resigned her position and goes to New York to prepare for mission work in China.

Miss Bertha Barden of Cleveland, has joined the cataloging staff of the St. Paul Public Library.

Miss Grace Meyer, for several months acting librarian at Red Wing, who attended the Summer School this year, has received an appointment in the St. Paul Public Library.

Miss Marion Lewis has been appointed librarian at Long Prairie.

Miss Clara Backe is librarian at Thief River Falls, succeeding Miss Hazel Prichard.

Miss Isabelle Buckley, formerly assistant in the public library at Hibbing is now librarian of the High School library. Her place in the library has been taken by Miss Mae Furlong.

NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

(Items of news for this column are solicited from all libraries in the state. They should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission by the 15th of the month preceding each issue of the bulletin, which appears quarterly in March, June, September and December.)

Alexandria. The age limit for children has been removed, and any child over 6 years may now have library privileges. A low table and chairs will be provided for the smaller children, and the children's department will be increased.

Aurora. A library is to be opened in the village hall, the board of education co-operating with the library board under the new law passed by the last legislature.

Baudette. A public library was opened in the council room June 1st, with several hundred volumes on the shelves.

Browns Valley. The public library which was temporarily closed, has been reopened to the public two days each week.

Chisholm. Work on the library building was begun in July, and will be pushed as rapidly as possible with the expectation of completing it early in December. Miss Palmer, who has been elected librarian will be in Chisholm October 1st, to assist in selection of furniture, and books.

Cloquet. Beginning in September, the library will be open continuously from 12:30 P. M. to 9 P. M.

Detroit. The cornerstone of the Carnegie library was laid May 28th, with appropriate ceremonies. The address was given by County Attorney H. N. Jensen, who paid a fine tribute to the faith, perseverance, harmony and industry of the ladies of the Detroit Library Club, which had made the library possible.

Ely. The High School Library was open to the public two afternoons each week during vacation.

Grand Rapids. A farmer's library at Northeast Experiment Station, was opened to the public with a general reception given by Supt. and Mrs. McGuire.

Mankato. During July, a collection of pictures loaned by Mr. Gilbert Fletcher, was of special interest to visitors. The collection consisted of a number of etchings and drawings done by himself, and original drawings by well-known illustrators secured from the Saturday Evening Post.

Minneapolis. A branch library has been opened in the Logan Park field house, a building which is owned jointly by the park board and library board.

Moorhead. Miss Whitman, librarian at Moorhead, visited a number of towns in Clay county to locate library stations on the county extension plan.

A sacred concert was given on the lawn of President Weld's home one Sunday night in August, when a goodly collection was taken for the purpose of completing the furnishing of the library building.

Owatonna. Two pictures have been secured for the library as a result of the State Art Society exhibit, one by the voting contest, and the other as a gift from the Nineteenth Century Club.

St. Paul. The contract for the foundation of the new public library has been awarded, and excavation has been started.

Story hours have been conducted on the public playgrounds throughout the summer by Miss Beatrice Wightman, now assistant in the children's department.

A department of books for the blind has been installed, which will have a special room in the new building.

St. Louis Park. A carnival was given in August for the benefit of the public library, by which about \$1,000 was raised.

Virginia. The circulation of the public library has increased 40 per cent since the new building was occupied, due to the more convenient location, attractive reading rooms, and additions of new books.

Walker. Beginning in September, the library will be open three evenings each week. A number of new magazines and papers will be added.

Wayzata. A cantata given at the town hall by the school children added \$31 to the Public Library fund.